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CAMISE

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA AIR POUCH

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Dispatch No: ~~SECRET~~ OK B-113

BSC/Ops/179

1 November 1947

TO : Chief, Foreign Branch "M"  
FROM : Chief of Station, Heidelberg, Germany  
SUBJECT : Meeting with CAMLET

1. [ ] met CAMLET on 27 October 1947 for the first time since CAMLET's return from a fortnight's stay in England at the invitation of the British Government.

2. CAMLET gave a description of his experiences in England. He considered the visit a complete failure, both psychologically and as a means of acquainting German newsmen with contemporary conditions in England. He finally left England three days ahead of the scheduled date of departure, because he felt no useful purpose would be served in completing the assigned itinerary.

3. During the course of the conversation the following topics were broached:

a. CAMLET was told of our interest in obtaining more information on the alleged plans of leading German politicians and public figures to petition Allied permission for a central government for the whole of Germany. In this connection the names of Deputy Mayor Ferdinand FRIEDENSBURG, former Minister President Karl GEILER of Hesse, and the former German Ambassador Rudolf NADOLNY were given to CAMLET. CAMLET stated that responsible functionaries of the SPD in Hannover were aware of and made allowance for the fact that NADOLNY is presumably acting under Soviet orders. As far as GEILER's purported role in connection with the Ostregierung scheme is concerned, CAMLET mentioned that GEILER's thirty-five year old daughter holds a position in the Central Committee of the SED. Contrary to the prevailing practice in that office, she is carried, not under her maiden name, but her married name, Lodo PIECK. (She is married to the second (?) son of the Chairman of the SED, Wilhelm PIECK.)

Field Comment: The SED directory lists one L. PIECK under Geschäftsabteilung, Room 110, Telephone 429688, Ext. 237.

b. Dr GRUNNER, who is the head of the political desk of the Telegraf, left for Vienna on 24 October 1947. (NOTE: His trip was facilitated by us.) CAMLET stated he had reliable information that a Soviet controlled underground movement has installed itself in the Socialist Party of Austria. He believes that Dr GRUNNER, by virtue of his Austrian background, is best equipped to ascertain the facts about the movement. CAMLET does not fully trust Dr GRUNNER; in fact, he had dispatched him on this particular mission with serious misgivings, of which he informed GRUNNER. GRUNNER knows that the same assignment will be covered for CAMLET by two other press representatives to forestall any attempt on GRUNNER's part to slant the facts. We drew CAMLET's attention to a rumor that GRUNNER is responsible for the leakage of

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certain news items to Soviet press services. CAMLET doubted this, but thought that CAMISE should be able to keep tabs on his activities.

Field Comment: CAMISE is at present assigned to the political desk, and it appears that she has already rendered herself indispensable to GRUNNER.

c. CAMLET took a pessimistic view of the prospects of the CDU continuing as an independent party in the Russian Zone. He believes that Jacob KAISER has lost all control over the destinies of his party and no longer has the strength of character and determination to arrive at the only possible solution: to dissolve the CDU in the Russian Zone. CAMLET has no doubt that Ernst LEMMER, Deputy Chairman of the CDU, is a Soviet pawn. He believes as a last resort the Russians may force the removal of KAISER and replace him with FRIEDENSBURG as Chairman and LEMMER as Deputy Chairman.

d. We briefed CAMLET on the importance we attach to the Generaldirektion der Wasserstrassen and its new chief, Ernst WOLLWEBER (cf. GB-4784/BSC-836).

e. CAMLET is now going through the photographic files of the Telegraf culling from them all photographs of Russian officials, which he will make available to us.

4. CAMLET's main preoccupation is to increase his paper's circulation (at present 30,000 copies) in the Russian Zone--the only obstacle is the lack of newsprint. CAMLET told us he could buy newsprint, probably as much as 150 tons per month, "black" from the Russians. He would only do so, however, if assured that the British would at least tacitly countenance such practice. We promised to look into the matter and make informal inquiries as to what attitude the British are likely to take. CAMLET also contemplates starting a western German edition of the Telegraf, and is currently negotiating for the purchase of a printing plant near Frankfurt.

5. CAMLET is not overly excited about the scope of the dismantlings planned by the Allies. He is convinced that the United States are committed to rebuilding a self-supporting Germany and that any equipment taken away from Germany now will ultimately be reissued to her in modernized form. He has come out very strongly against any socialization experiments: a circumstance which has placed him at odds with the doctrinaire elements of his party. He puts his argument as follows: if the Americans wanted to destroy the SPD, all they would have to do is give in on the socialization of the Ruhr industries (which, according to CAMLET, would most certainly result in disastrous failure).

6. CAMLET appeared very well satisfied with CAMISE's work. We stressed again that the success of the operation hinges on the continued concealment of the true purpose of her work in the Telegraf, to which CAMLET agreed. We hinted that her present position with the political desk was most likely to yield satisfactory results, both from a journalistic and an intelligence point of view.

7. CAMLET plans to take a trip to France on or about 25 November.

Chief, SC Berlin

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